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Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S:LPBREMER:GH
APPROVED BY S:LPBREMER
S/S - MR. SPRINGSTEEN
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
S, S/S, S/PRS, LSE, AND H ONLY
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Z 031843Z SEP 75 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT FLASH

S E C R E T STATE 208984 TOSEC 100497

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRESS CONFERENCE

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM MCCLOSKEY, FUNSETH, EAGLEBURGER,
AND SCOWCROFT

1. YOU HAVE ASKED FOR OUR VIEWS ON THE PROS AND CONS ON YOUR DOING A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW.

2. ALL OF US ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT THERE IS AN OVER-WHELMING NEED TO GET YOUR POSITION ON THE MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT ON THE PUBLIC RECORD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. MCCLOSKEY AND FUNSETH FEEL THAT YOU SHOULD TAKE THE POSITION THAT YOU WILL NOT DO A PRESS CONFERENCE UNTIL YOU HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO REPORT ON THE AGREEMENT TO THE TWO RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES. MCCLOSKEY FEELS THAT THIS POSITION WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED ON THE HILL AND AT THE SAME TIME, BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE PRESS. CONVERSLY, MCCLOSKEY SAYS YOU WILL NEEDLESSLY PUT MANY
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CONGRESSIONAL NOSES OUT OF JOINT IF YOU REPORT ON THE

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AGREEMENT TO THE PRESS (AND THROUGH THEM TO THE PUBLIC) BEFORE THE RELEVANT COMMITTEES HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO HEAR YOU.

3. MCCLOSKEY AND FUNSETH THINK THAT YOU CAN FURTHER RELIEVE PRESSURE FOR AN IMMEDIATE PRESS CONFERENCE BY AGREEING TO DO YOUR APPEARANCES BEFORE THE SFRC TOMORROW AND BEFORE THE HIRC NEXT WEEK IN OPEN SESSION. BY COMBINING THIS WITH AN ANNOUNCEMENT THAT ON A DATE CERTAIN NEXT WEEK YOUWILL GIVE A PRESS CONFERENCE, THEY BELIEVE YOU CAN SUBSTANTIALLY DEFLATE THE PRESSURE FOR AN IMMEDIATE PRESS CONFERENCE.

4. EAGLEBURGER AGREES WITH MCCLOSKEY AND FUNSETH THAT IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN DO THE CONGRESSIONAL APPEARANCES IN OPEN SESSION AND AT THE SAME TIME ANNOUNCE A DATE FOR YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE, THIS WOULD BE THE BEST SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM. HOWEVER, HE FEELS THAT WE FRANKLY CANNOT JUDGE FROM HERE WHETHER THERE IS ENOUGH INFORMATION ABOUT THE AGREEMENT WHICH YOU FEEL YOU WILL HAVE TO TELL THE COMMITTEES IN PRIVATE TO NECESSITATE EXECUTIVE SESSIONS. HE ADDS THAT IF YOU BEGIN THE APPEARANCES IN OPEN SESSION AND ARE THEN REQUIRED, BEFORE THE CAMERAS, TO SAY THAT YOU CANNOT ANSWER CERTAIN QUESTIONS IN PUBLIC, IT COULD RAISE UNNECESSARY SUSPICIONS IN THE PUBLIC MIND AND TEND TO OFFSET THE ADVANTAGES OF AN OPEN HEARING. HOWEVER, HE REPEATS THAT WE CANNOT JUDGE THIS IN WASHINGTON. EAGLEBURGER ALSO NOTES THAT OPEN SESSION HEARINGS WILL INCLINE THE CONGRESSMEN TO BE SLIGHTLY SHARPER IN THEIR QUESTIONING OF YOU THAN WOULD BE THE CASE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION. EAGLEBURGER FEELS THAT IF YOU CANNOT APPEAR IN OPEN SESSION BEFORE THE COMMITTEES THEN DESPITE THE HEAVY BURDEN ON YOUR SCHEDULE TOMORROW, YOU SHOULD AGREE TO DO A PRESS CONFERENCE AT 11:30 AFTER YOUR BARBER APPOINTMENT.

5. SCOWCROFT FEELS STRONGLY THAT YOU SHOULD DO A PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW IN ANY CASE. HE STRESSES THAT IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET YOUR POSITION OUT TO THE PUBLIC IN FULL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE VERY MUCH DOUBTS IF YOU CAN DO

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THAT IN AN OPEN SESSION AND DOUBTS IF YOU COULD DO YOUR FULL BRIEFING IN OPEN SESSION. HE AGREES WITH LARRY THAT IF YOU THEN HAD TO GO INTO CLOSED SESSION, IT WOULD RAISE SUSPICIONS OF "SECRECY" SURROUNDING THE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD HURT YOU. SCOWCROFT ALSO THINKS YOU CAN TURN MCCLOSKEY'S ARGUMENT AROUND: YOU COULD ARGUE THAT BY BRIEFING IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AFTER A PUBLIC PRESS CONFERENCE YOU ARE GIVING THE CONGRESSMEN SPECIAL ATTENTION

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AND INFORMATION BEYOND THAT GIVEN THE PUBLIC. FOR THESE REASONS, BRENT STRONGLY URGES YOU TO DO A PRESS CONFERENCE THURSDAY MORNING.

6. WHILE THE ABOVE WAS BEING DRAFTED THE HIRC CONTACTED MCCLOSKEY TO SAY THAT BECAUSE IMPORTANT ENERGY LEGISLATION WILL BE DEBATED ON THE FLOOR TUESDAY, THE HIRC GREATLY PREFERS TO HAVE YOU APPEAR MONDAY MORNING AT 10:30 INSTEAD OF ON TUESDAY. IF YOU AGREE TO DO THIS SWITCH, THEN YOU COULD DO YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE TUESDAY MORNING AT 11:00 OR 11:30 (AFTER YOUR MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT).

7. RECOMMENDATIONS:

A. THAT YOU AGREE TO DO YOUR CONGRESSIONAL APPEARANCES IN OPEN SESSION.

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B. THAT YOU AGREE TO MOVE YOUR HIRC APPEARANCE TO MONDAY AT 10:30 AM

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C. THAT IF YOU APPROVE RECOMMENDATIONS ABOVE YOU AGREE

TO DO YOUR PRESS CONFERENCE ON TUESDAY MORNING SEPTEMBER 9 AT 11:30 AND THAT WE ANNOUNCE IT.

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D. ALTERNATIVELY, THAT YOU DO THE PRESS CONFERENCE TOMORROW AT 11:30.

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